

# NEWS from

## The Savannah River Site

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For Immediate Release

### POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SRS ON THE PUBLIC REMAINS LOW, SAYS 2001 SRS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

AIKEN, S.C., (Sept. 24, 2002) — The potential impact of the Savannah River Site (SRS) on the offsite public remains low, according to the 2001 SRS Environmental Report.

The largest radiation dose that any single offsite individual could have received from SRS operations in 2001 is estimated to be 0.18 millirem (a millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure), compared with a natural average dose of about 300 millirem to people in the U.S. This dose is the same as the 2000 dose rate.

Compliance with environmental regulations and with U.S. Department of Energy orders related to environmental protection provides assurance that onsite processes do not impact the environment adversely.

The site had a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System compliance rate of 99.6 percent in 2001. This system protects streams, reservoirs and other wetlands by limiting all nonradiological releases. Discharge limits are set for each facility to ensure that SRS operations do not negatively impact aquatic life or degrade water quality.

Effluent monitoring and environmental surveillance were conducted extensively within a 2000-square-mile network reaching 25 miles from SRS – with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. The area includes neighboring cities, towns, and counties in Georgia and South Carolina. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment and vegetation were collected and analyzed for radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

SRS did not receive any notices of violation (NOVs) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Two NOVs were issued to SRS during 2001. One, associated with the Clean Air Act, was issued because the site did not provide National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants reports on time or install a pressure gauge at the A-Area Powerhouse baghouse. The other, related to the South Carolina Pollution Control Act, was issued because SRS released oil from the D-Area stormwater outfall, did not operate the oil/water separator at the Fire Training Facility, and did not promptly clean up the spill.

(more)

Copies of this year's report are now available on CD. Annual (2001) reports from the site's Environmental Restoration and Solid Waste divisions and from the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory are also included on the disc.

The SRS's Environmental Reports have been produced for more than 46 years. Copies are distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, environmental and civic groups, news media and interested individuals.

If you would like to receive a copy of the report, call or write to:

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WSRC-02-43